Integrated Management Navigation System
Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System

S T R I P E S   C o m m u n i q u é

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The STRIPES Communiqué is one of the many ways you will receive information and progress updates about the STRIPES Project. If you did not receive this communiqué via e-mail and would like to be added to the STRIPES mailing list, send an e-mail to STRIPES@hq.doe.gov with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

A Look Under the Hood: the Package Selection and Enablement Phase

"*Solve Tomorrow's Predictable Problems Today*." - Daniel Burrus

Have you ever heard a suspicious noise in your car and taken it into the service station before there was a breakdown? You anticipated a problem and solved it, saving yourself a major inconvenience. Most of your future problems are both predictable and therefore avoidable. It's true that you can't predict all of your future problems, but you can predict many of them and solve them before they happen. By solving tomorrow's predictable problems today, you'll have fewer crises to manage in the present.

This is precisely what's happening in the **STRIPES Package Selection and Enablement Phase**. DOE has long been aware of 'suspicious noises' with our redundant acquisition and financial assistance systems, wearisome processes, quality and timeliness of procurement data, interoperability and information sharing with other DOE and external systems. We've opened the hood on our procurement and contracts management processes so we can take an extensive look at potential improvements and run at peak efficiency. The good news is -- we're in the shop and a team of experts is busy at work analyzing our business environment to see how we can best optimize our business processes.

Field Office Staff to Participate in Demonstrations of New Software

Edward Simpson, Director, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, recently notified key DOE members that the STRIPES Project has entered the Selection and Initial Configuration Phase. "This is a 'critical path' activity that needs to be accomplished in accordance with the project milestones schedule. Over the next four months, the STRIPES team will be soliciting, evaluating and recommending a software solution that will provide the fundamental integrated capability of STRIPES to support your acquisition and assistance work force" Mr. Simpson stated. Dedicated participation of staff members during this period will be essential for success.

Doug Baptist, the Federal Project Manager for STRIPES, has identified individuals representing DOE field offices to participate in the evaluation phase. In most cases, team members were selected because they have past and current experience on the STRIPES team. In those cases where sites do not have an appointed representative, discussions will occur to identify potential members for the evaluation team. Mr. Simpson communicated that we all have a stake in this as we look ahead.

During the month of August, the staff that is assisting the STRIPES Team in selecting our new software will participate in many activities including: working with IBM to downselect to qualified vendors and notify selected offers and participate in Live Test Demonstrations, where each offeror will demonstrate their software. On the heels of the Evaluation stage, the IBM STRIPES Team will spearhead the *Package Selection* process, a three-step method consisting of evaluating vendor solutions, performing vendor selection and requesting DOE concurrence.

IBM is currently finalizing the STRIPES solicitation, which they (IBM) scheduled to release in mid-July. As part of the solicitation, the scripts to be used in the Live Test Demonstration (LTD) will be provided to the offerors to ensure adequate time for preparation. An overview of these draft functional scripts for both Acquisition and Financial Management was provided to the STRIPES Project Management Team. Comments have since been received and IBM is in the process of incorporating those into the scripts.

What's New?

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Technical Area
  - Completed the "As Is" survey of known DOE systems which will provide the basis for the gap analysis of the "To Be" system
  - Attended two presentations by Government consortium partners to evaluate the Grants Management Line of Business (GMLoB) capabilities
  - Completed technical specifications for the RFP
- Functional Area
  - Revised and expanded the scripts that will be used by vendors to demonstrate their systems' capability for both Acquisition and Financial Assistance applications. The scripts are designed to test the vendors' software on tasks identical to those required by DOE
  - Completed preliminary access procedures for the I-ASSIST development database which will be used for evaluation of RFP responses
  - Updated risk assessment to include the retirement or transfer of key STRIPES stakeholders or subject matter experts. This risk will assist the project team in better coordinating any potential impact on STRIPES deployment due to the upcoming retirement eligibility of key staff

What is I-ASSIST?

I-ASSIST is an automated proposal evaluation tool that will speed up the rating and evaluation process by allowing evaluators to create rating plans, evaluate proposals and provide evaluation summaries electronically. As such, the STRIPES Team is leveraging the I-ASSIST tool for evaluating vendor proposals for the STRIPES procurement. I-ASSIST is integrated with the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) and if successfully used here, will be made available to IIPS users in the next major release.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Technical Area
  - Once the responses are received for the RFP, the responses will be evaluated and qualified offerors will be invited to demonstrate their software during Live Test Demonstrations in mid- to late-August
  - Attend third and final GMLoB presentation to evaluate the solution offered by our Government consortium partners
- Functional Area
  - Personnel participating in the vendor selection will be trained on the I-ASSIST tool to evaluate the proposal

STRIPES Project Information

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